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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

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(21) International Application Number: PCT/US92/09039 (22) International Filing Date: 23 October 1992 (23.10.92) (30) Priority data: 794,292 25 October 1991 (25.10.91) US (71) Applicant: NUSIL TECHNOLOGY [US/US]; 1040 Cindy Lane, Carpinteria, CA 93013 (US). (72) Inventor: NASH, Brian ; 1326 Vallecito Place, Carpinteria, CA 93013 (US). (74) Agent: PETIT, Michael, G.; 510 Castillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101 (US).		(81) Designated States: AU, CA, JP, European patent (AT, BE, CH, DE, DK, ES, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, SE). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR TEXTURING THE SURFACE OF ARTICLES (57) Abstract Novel one and-two-part silicone dispersions are described which are suitable for applying a durable textured silicone surface on both silicone and non-silicone articles. The non-blocking surface is obtained by dip-coating a final layer over an article wherein the dispersion used for the final layers comprises a unique hydrophilic silica filler having a specific surface area of about 75-200 m ² per gram, at least one crosslinkable polysiloxane and a crosslinking agent. The silica particles, securely imbedded within the final layer of silicone with portions thereof extending outwardly beyond the new outer silicone surface of the article, present a non-blocking, non-allergenic textured surface.		

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COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR TEXTURING
THE SURFACE OF ARTICLES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a composition and method for making a silicone article that has a textured non-blocking surface.

2. Prior Art

As is well known in the art, silicone articles may be formed by dipping or otherwise depositing a dispersion of silicone on an appropriate form. The dispersion may also contain a vulcanizing agent along with accelerators and other additives. After each layer of dispersion is deposited on the form, the layer is permitted to cure and the process is repeated until the outer shell of the article reaches the required thickness.

A smooth untreated elastomer surface has the physical characteristic of blocking; that is, the characteristic of sticking to itself and other surfaces. For some applications blocking is undesirable. For example, blocking is undesirable in latex, silicone and other elastomer gloves because it makes them difficult to don. Various lubricants and release agents have been dusted or otherwise applied to gloves to improve performance and overcome blocking. The shedding of these lubricants can cause undesirable side-effects, such as contamination, infection and foreign body reactions due to powders from gloves entering the wound during surgical procedures. As a result, much of the early work on

1 textured surfaces was performed on latex surgical gloves. U.S.
2 Patent No. 3,761,965, discloses a sanitary glove having a textured
3 surface provided by a granular vinyl chloride polymer imbedded on
4 the surface of the film from which the glove is manufactured. This
5 glove is suitable for donning without the use of a lubricant such
6 as powder. However, this type of glove has the same type of
7 problem as talc-dusted gloves in that particulates may enter a
8 wound causing an adverse foreign body reaction. Dusted gloves are,
9 therefore, not generally suitable for surgical procedures.

10 U.S. Patent No. 1,983,963 discloses a method of providing
11 a textured surface on a rubber glove which subjects the vulcanized
12 surface of the glove to the action of a rubber solvent or swelling
13 agent such as naphtha, benzol, or gasoline either by immersion of
14 by subjecting the surfaces to the fumes of these chemicals. This
15 process, which is similar to etching, has not enjoyed widespread
16 use and is not adaptable to silicone.

17 U.S. Patent No. 4,143,109, issued to Stockum, describes
18 a method of dip-coating a first layer of natural rubber latex onto
19 a glove form, the form having the general contour of a human hand,
20 followed by dip-coating a second layer containing particulates
21 which are randomly distributed throughout dispersion. After
22 curing, the glove is inverted and may be donned without the use of
23 lubricants. The general method developed by Stockum for latex

1 articles has not been transferrable to silicone articles because
2 the particulates taught by Stockum for use with latex would weaken
3 the outermost layers of silicone substantially.

4 The foregoing inventions have been developed for latex
5 articles. U.S. Patent no. 4,061,709 to Miller, et al., describes
6 a method for manufacturing silicone rubber gloves with a non-
7 blocking surface by repeatedly dipping a form in a solvent
8 dispersion of uncured silicone rubber to build up a plurality of
9 layers and then forming a layer of liquid droplets on the surface
10 of the article thereby forming an irregular or textured surface as
11 the solvent evaporates. Utilization of this method for physically
12 altering the exterior uniformly from lot to lot requires a highly
13 controlled manufacturing environment which is difficult and
14 expensive to maintain. The present invention utilizes a unique
15 dispersion which produces a uniformly textured, non-blocking
16 surface.

17 There are other areas where a non-organic, non-
18 contaminating, non-blocking, non-allergenic, texturized surface
19 with low reflectivity and high diffusivity would be highly
20 advantageous. Some space applications demand low reflectivity or
21 high diffusivity in paints and coatings. Epoxies, and almost all
22 organic coatings other than silicone, are not durable enough to
23 withstand the highly oxidizing atmospheres that satellites must

1 endure. For example, an anti-blocking silicone surface is
2 necessary in a bellows or in rolled solar array to facilitate
3 separation of adjacent surfaces during deployment. Until now,
4 prior art silicone technology has not been able to produce
5 contaminant-free silicone anti-blocking, low reflectivity, high
6 diffusivity outer layers which are sufficiently durable to
7 withstand the physical and chemical properties of these extreme
8 environments.

9 SUMMARY OF THE PRESENT INVENTION

10 The invention general contemplates providing a new and
11 improved composition and process which enables both silicone and
12 non-silicone articles to be coated with silicone and textured *in*
13 *situ*. Texturizing is brought about by the incorporation of
14 hydrophilic silica in a silicone dispersion used for a final
15 coating or texturing dip. In the final dispersion of the dipping
16 process, the silica particles are incorporated within the outermost
17 layer and stand up away from the surface providing a textured
18 unblocking surface, while, at the same time, not substantially
19 weakening the article or permitting delamination of the textured
20 final layer.

21 It is an object of the invention to provide a composition
22 for making a silicone article having an integral textured non-
23 blocking outer surface, which surface is formed *in situ*; and to

1 provide a method for making the same.

2 It is yet another object of this invention to provide a
3 composition and method useful for applying a textured silicone
4 coating to both silicone and non-silicone articles.

5 It is yet a further object of the invention to provide a
6 composition for applying a contaminant-free outer surface to an
7 article.

8 It is still a further object of the invention to provide
9 a composition for applying a textured, non-allergenic outer surface
10 to an article.

11 DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

12 This invention teaches the addition of hydrophilic silica
13 preferably in the size range of 2-10 microns, to elastomer
14 dispersion to provide a textured non-blocking silicone surface
15 coating on articles dipped therein. Dipping articles in elastomer
16 dispersions is well known in the art of applying elastomer
17 coatings. Suitable silicone dispersions for applying smooth, non-
18 textured coatings to articles are also well known in the art. What
19 has been unknown in the art until the invention thereof by the
20 present inventor is the addition of hydrophilic silica to a
21 silicone dispersion to render a textured surface to articles coated
22 therewith.

23 The addition of colloidal silica to elastomer dispersions

1 is also well known in the art. The function of added colloidal
2 silica is to strengthen the elastomer upon curing. Colloidal
3 silica, which is hydrophobic (organophilic), is obtained by the
4 surface treatment of silica with organic moieties to generate a
5 particulate species capable of colloidal dispersion. While the
6 addition of colloidal silica to a silicone dispersion strengthens
7 the resultant elastomer layer, the dispersion is inoperative for
8 providing a textured surface to an article coated therewith.
9 Surprisingly, adding hydrophilic silica, preferably in the size
10 range 2-10 microns, to a dispersion does provide a textured surface
11 to an article coated therewith. Colloidal silica is too dense for
12 the particles to "float" to the surface while the layer is curing.
13 It is important that the silica particles have a large specific
14 surface area and a density such that the hydrophilic silica
15 particles "float" in an elastomer dispersion thereby migrating to
16 the surface of a layer coated with such dispersion.

17 Example 1: FIRST PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

18 The present invention is directed to the task of
19 improving the surface morphology of articles, including silicone
20 articles, to provide a textured surface which has a lower
21 coefficient of friction than a smooth surface and which is suitable
22 for coating articles such as surgical gloves which presently
23 require lubricants to enable donning.

1 In accordance with the invention, the surface morphology
2 of articles is substantially improved by bonding to the surface a
3 silicone coating comprising the reaction product of a composition
4 comprising: (1) at least one crosslinkable polysiloxane; (2)
5 silica filler; (3) crosslinking catalyst; (4) a crosslinking agent.
6 The coating may be applied to the surface from a liquid vehicle,
7 preferably a volatile organic solvent, followed by heating to drive
8 off the organic solvent or other liquid vehicle and to effect
9 crosslinking. The manner of application, whether by dipping,
10 flowing, spraying, etc. is a matter of individual choice and per se
11 comprises no part of this invention.

12 An example of a two-part silicone dispersion which, when
13 combined and applied to the surface of an article, and allowed to
14 cure, produces a durable textured, non-blocking surface on said
15 article, is as follows:

	Part A	Part B
	% by weight	% by weight
16 Trifluoropropyl methyl polysiloxane	0 - 100%	0 - 100%
17 Dimethyl polysiloxane	0 - 100%	9 - 100%
18 Dimethyl diphenyl polysiloxane	0 - 30%	30 - 0%

1	Catalyst	0 - 20 ppm	-0-
2	X linker	-0-	0 - 10%
3	Hydrophilic silica	1 - 20%	1 - 20%
4	Reinforcing silica	0 - 40%	0 - 40%

5
6 The coating composition of this invention is readily
7 prepared by mixing the ingredients under ambient temperature and
8 pressure. The surface may then be coated by per se known
9 techniques, dipping in the coating solution being more efficacious.

10 Crosslinking, as well as solvent removal, is effected by
11 heating at a temperature and for a time to effect complete cure as
12 well as solvent removal. Since there is a time-temperature
13 relationship to effect cure, the time and temperature are not
14 susceptible to precise quantitative statements. On a bench scale,
15 heating at about 150°C for about 30 minutes is effective.

16 Example 2: SECOND PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

17 A second system which is suitable for using as a final
18 coat dispersion for producing textured surfaces on silicone and
19 non-silicone articles is a one-part system similar to the two-part
20 system described in Example 1. The one-part system utilizes, for
21 example, dimethyl polysiloxane (0-100%), Dimethyl diphenyl
22 polysiloxane (30-0%), hydrophilic silica having a specific surface

1 area between 75-200 square meters per gram (0-20%), tris
2 (methylethyl ketoximo) methylsilane (<10%) and a catalyst (organo-
3 tin complex) in naphtha. Before the above dispersion is suitable
4 for a final application, the percentage of texturing silica (e.g.
5 Degussa TS-100) must be adjusted to fall within the range of about
6 0-20% by solids weight. Solvent for the final dilution runs from
7 0-70% by solids weight.

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. In a one or two part dispersion of a silicone elastomer in a organic solvent, the improvement comprising the addition of hydrophilic silica to said dispersion to provide a textured surface to an article coated with said dispersion.

2. The improved dispersion of Claim 1 wherein the hydrophilic silica has a particle size of 2-10 micrometers and a specific surface area of 75-200 square meters per gram.

3. The improved dispersion of Claim 1 wherein said silicone elastomer is a copolymer comprising dimethyl polysiloxane.

4. The improved dispersion of Claim 1 wherein said elastomer is a copolymer comprising dimethyl diphenyl polysiloxane.

5. The improved dispersion of Claim 2 wherein said silicone elastomer is a copolymer comprising dimethyl polysiloxane.

6. The improved dispersion of Claim 2 wherein said elastomer is a copolymer comprising dimethyl diphenyl polysiloxane.

7. An article having a textured outer surface made by the process comprising (a) coating the article in a dispersion of silicone elastomer in an organic solvent to which dispersion hydrophilic silica has been added; and (b) curing the coating.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US92/09039

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(5) : CO8L 83/04; CO8F 283/12; CO8G 77/06

US CL : 524/860, 869; 525/474; 528/18

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 524/860, 869; 525/474; 528/18

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X Y	US, A, 4,569,980 (SASAKI ET AL) 11 FEBRUARY 1986, see entire document.	1-7 2,5,6
A	US, A, 4,950,502 (SAAM ET AL) 21 AUGUST 1990, see entire document.	1-7
A	US, A, 4,560,711 (SUZUKI) 24 DECEMBER 1985, see entire document.	1-7
A	US, A, 4,087,399 (HAMADA ET AL) 02 MAY 1978	1-7

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

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Date of the actual completion of the international search

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Date of mailing of the international search report

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